

BARNSTABLE COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES
Report of the Standing Committee on Finance
Proposed Ordinance 11-10
December 21, 2011

Dear Mr. Speaker and Assembly Delegates:

This is a report on Proposed Ordinance 11-10. The proposed ordinance was submitted to the Assembly of Delegates by the Board of Regional Commissioners at the Assembly of Delegates regular meeting on December 7, 2011. A public hearing was scheduled to be held by the Standing Committee on Finance on Wednesday December 21, 2011 at 3:30 p.m. and it was duly advertised in the Cape Cod Times on December 14, 2011.

The purpose of the proposed ordinance was to add to the County's operating budget for Fiscal Year 2012, as enacted in Ordinance No. 11-06, by making supplemental appropriations for the Fiscal Year two-thousand and twelve.

Committee members present: John Ohman, Chair, Leo Cakounes, Christopher Kanaga, Marcia King, and Tom Lynch.

Others present: Children's Cove Director Stacy Gallagher and Speaker Ronald Bergstrom.

Chair John Ohman opened the public hearing a 3:30 p.m.

Marcia King motioned and Tom Lynch seconded to waive the reading of the posted public notice and Proposed Ordinance 11-10. Committee voted 5-0-0.

John Ohman stated that the committee was meeting to consider a request for \$8,000 for Health & Human Services Department Children's Cove for the purchasing of videotaping equipment for their forensic interview room.

Director Stacy Gallagher provided the committee with some history regarding this request. She said that the Chiefs of Police came together and requested the videotaping of forensic interviews some time ago and brought that to the District Attorney's Office. The District Attorney made the decision to approve the utilization of video tapes in court. She said we need the equipment to proceed and hope to start videotaping in January. To date, Barnstable County is the only county in Massachusetts that does not videotape because it was a decision that was left up to the District Attorney. The District Attorney has now approved of this process and we are probably one of a few remaining places in the county that does not do this. This will be a two year pilot program but it will not be dropped after two years. Marcia King asked if there would be a re-occurring cost after the pilot ended. Stacy Gallagher said this was a one-time cost for equipment. She said she looked for grants but could not find any and solicited quotes for the equipment. Christopher Kanaga said that Cape Cod has traditionally been resistant to prosecuting these types of matters and is in favor of anything that would promote a change that would help with investigations and prosecutions. Stacy Gallagher said that she has also been in favor of this for several years.

Leo Cakounes asked if there was any videotaping equipment presently available through Police Departments or other local law enforcement agencies. Stacy Gallagher said they have their own

interrogation room for suspects and their equipment is not mobile. Leo Cakounes asked if the equipment being purchased would be permanently installed or mobile. He also asked if the equipment in the room would be available to others or just for use by Children’s Cove. Stacy Gallagher said others could use it, such as other agencies like the FBI, and other jurisdictions could be supplied with videotape done here due to the transient nature of the Cape Cod population during the summer months.

There were no comments from the public.

Tom Lynch motioned, seconded by Marcia King to recommend adoption of Proposed Ordinance 11-10 to the full Assembly.

John Ohman – Aye; Leo Cakounes - Nay; Christopher Kanaga – Aye; Marcia King – Aye; and Tom Lynch - Aye. Committee voted 4-1-0.

Marcia King motioned, seconded by Tom Lynch to close the public hearing. Committee voted 5-0-0.

Marcia King referenced an article from the Barnstable Patriot regarding slipping deeds revenues for the current fiscal year. She wanted to bring this to the attention of the Finance Committee. John Ohman said he spoke to the County Administrator and plans on meeting with him, starting in January, on a regular basis to look at the revenue situation.

General discussion ensued regarding home sales within the county and the effects on revenues for the county.

Marcia King motioned, seconded by Tom Lynch to adjourn the meeting. Committee voted 5-0-0.

The meeting adjourned at 3: 50 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

John Ohman, Chair
Leo Cakounes
Christopher Kanaga
Marcia King
Tom Lynch